



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY ADOPTING RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) FOR THE GRIZZLY SLOUGH FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT AT THE COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE.

Whereas, the Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Project) is a proposal put forth by the Department of Water Resources to restore natural flooding on the 489 acres between Grizzly Slough and Bear Slough by breaching the levee on Grizzly Slough. A channel network will be excavated from the breach. A new setback levee will be constructed along the south property boundary to provide equivalent flood protection pre- and post-project. The levee will include flap-gated drainage culverts to allow one-way drainage from south to north (in the downstream direction). Hydrologic modeling indicates the restored areas will experience winter flooding every 2-5 years, suitable for riparian recruitment. The channels will be graded to maintain tidal flows year-round, with no floodplain ponding that could strand salmonids. Native vegetation will be established by natural recruitment (emergents in channel, cottonwood on floodplain) and planting. Floodplain areas above mean higher high water will be drill seeded with native grasses to forestall weeds, with patches of herbaceous and woody plants planted to jumpstart riparian establishment. The floodplain's long-term trajectory will be toward riparian forest habitat. An agricultural zone (157 ac) will be established on higher elevation in the south area, and enhanced with new water supply infrastructure to allow cultivation of irrigated crops (corn) to provide wildlife benefits and revenue. Long-term management (weed control, monitoring) will be accomplished by Cosumnes River Preserve staff, with funding from the agricultural lease; and

Whereas, the Department of Water Resources is the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000 et seq.); and

Whereas, the Department of Water Resources prepared and certified an Initial Study (IS) and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to CEQA in order to analyze all potential adverse environmental impacts of the project; and

Whereas, the Department of Water Resources has requested funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) for the Project, the Delta Conservancy, as a responsible agency, must therefore make certain findings prior to approving funding for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:

- a. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board (Board) has reviewed and considered the Final Environmental Impact Report and the Department of Water Resources' findings, which are incorporated herein by reference, and finds in its independent judgment, as to those potential impacts within the Board's powers and authorities as a responsible agency, that the Final Environmental Impact Report contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the Project's potential impacts and that mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project that avoid

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and/or substantially lessen most of the potentially significant effects of the Project. The Board further finds that, in accordance with the lead agency's Statement of Overriding Considerations, the effects that could not be sufficiently mitigated are brief enough in duration and minor enough in impact that the project is still considered beneficial.

- b. The Board further finds that no additional feasible mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary to reduce the environmental impacts of the project to less than significant levels.
- c. The Board hereby authorizes and directs staff to file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse.
- d. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are located on the Delta Conservancy's website.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD
THIS 10th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2018.**

VOTE

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

Dolly Sandoval, Board Vice Chair

Attachments:

- Department of Water Resources Director's Decision Memo dated 10/21/10; and Decisions Relating to the North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project
- Addendum 2: North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project
- North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project Environmental Impact Report
- North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project Environmental Impact Report – Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program
- North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project – Statement of Overriding Considerations